

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for tracking activities running in parallel in a data processing system, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 maintaining an ordered list of activities running in the system;
 - 4 whenever a new activity begins, inserting the new activity at a top of the list;
 - 5 whenever an activity in the ordered list completes, removing the completed activity from the ordered list; and
 - 6 displaying the activity that is at the top of the list.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the displaying step displays a code pertaining to the latest-started activity that has not completed.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activities are configurations of devices attached to the data processing system.

- 1 4. A method for configuring devices attached to a data processing system,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 (a) determining if configuration of a device has begun;
4 (b) if configuration of a device has begun, inserting the configuration of the
5 device in a list and displaying a code associated with the device;
6 (c) determining if configuration of a device has completed;
7 (d) if configuration of a device has completed, removing the configuration of
8 the device from the list; and
9 (e) if the configuration of the device removed in step (d) had had its associated
10 code displayed, displaying code associated with a configuration of a device
11 immediately previous.
- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to
2 step (a) from step (b) if it is determined that configuration of a device has begun.
- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to
2 step (a) if in step (c) it is determined that configuration of a device has not completed.
- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to
2 step (a) if in step (e) the configuration of the device removed in step (d) had not had
3 its associated code displayed.

1 8. The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to
2 step (c) from step (e).

- 1 9. A data processing system comprising:
2 circuitry for maintaining an ordered list of activities running in the system;
3 whenever a new activity begins, circuitry for inserting the new activity at a top
4 of the list;
5 whenever an activity in the ordered list completes, circuitry for removing the
6 completed activity from the ordered list; and
7 circuitry for displaying the activity that is at the top of the list.

- 1 10. The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the displaying circuitry displays a
2 code pertaining to the latest-started activity that has not completed.

- 1 11. The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the activities are configurations of
2 devices attached to the data processing system.

- 1 12. The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the displaying circuitry further
2 comprises:
3 circuitry for determining if an activity that has completed is currently being
4 displayed; and
5 if the activity that has completed is currently being displayed, circuitry for
 displaying an activity that had previously been displayed.

1 13. A computer program product adaptable for storage on a computer readable
2 medium, comprising a computer program operable for performing the following
3 steps:

4 maintaining an ordered list of activities running in a data processing system;
5 whenever a new activity begins, inserting the new activity at a top of the list;
6 whenever an activity in the ordered list completes, removing the completed
7 activity from the ordered list; and
8 displaying the activity that is at the top of the list.

1 14. The program as recited in claim 13, wherein the displaying step displays a
2 code pertaining to the latest-started activity that has not completed.

1 15. The program as recited in claim 13, wherein the activities are configurations
2 of devices attached to the data processing system.

1 16. The program as recited in claim 13, wherein the displaying step further
2 comprises the steps of:
3 determining if an activity that has completed is currently being displayed; and
4 if the activity that has completed is currently being displayed, displaying an
activity that had previously been displayed.